

City to capitalize on methane gas from dump

By Lauren Gilchrist
July 2/08

Methane gas is being put to good use at the Peterborough landfill.

At Monday's Committee of the Whole meeting, councillors approved Peterborough Utilities Inc. designing, building and operating a small electrical generating unit that will turn methane gas into electricity at the Peterborough City County Waste Management Facility. Council also approved that Peterborough Utilities Inc. be allowed a 90 day "due diligence" period after which they will present their final terms for the project.

At Monday's meeting Larry Doran, president and CEO of the City of Peterborough Holdings Inc., made a presentation to councillors outlining the project. He noted it is the same presentation he made to County Council last week.

"I think it's a great idea," says Councillor Dean Pappas.

"It's an old technology that works. We're burning the stuff anyway, we may as well get some power out of it."

Wayne Jackson, director of utility services, notes they are always looking for ways to use their landfill.

"This is certainly the first avenue to go," he says.

"Right now we're just burning the methane off."

Mr. Doran says Ottawa, Guelph and Sudbury already have similar stations up and running.

Coun. Henry Clarke says he is supportive of the project, noting it is great for the environment.

"I'm also fully supportive of this," says Coun. Shirley Eggleton. I think it's something we need to move on quickly."

The decision still needs final approval at regular council next Monday (July 7).